*[Translation]*

**Uranium Oxide**

33. *SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the PRIME* MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Scientists have developed any new indigenous technology for achieving self dependence in the production of Uranium Oxide fuel which is considered important for nuclear reactors;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantity of Uranium Oxide likely to be produced per month as a result of new technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The technology for production of uranium oxide fuel for our nuclear power reactors was indigenously developed quite some time back. Based on this technology, the requirement of nuclear fuel of all our power reactors is being met by the Nuciear Fuel Complex, set up at Hyderabad in the early seventies. However, development of new technologies, which is an ongoing process, is pursued continuously.

(b) The "sol-gel" technology of making uranium oxide micro-spheres of uniform size and excellent flowability has been developed. Consolidation of these microspheres in the from of uranium oxide pellets, used as nuclear reactor fuel, has also been optimized. The feasibility of sintering this material at relatively low temperatures has been demonstrated. Fuel bundles using such pellets are currently under testing in power reactors for their performance evaluation.

As an alternative to the enriched uranium oxide fuel, used only for the two boiling water reactors at Tarapur Atomic Power Station (TAPS), a new mixed oxide (MOX) fuel has been produced. This fuel is a mixture of plutonium and uranium oxides. A small number of fuel assemblies of MOX has been loaded in the reactors at TAPS.

(c) It is too early to quantify the production rates of nuclear fuel based on the new technology, in view of the status mentioned in reply to part (b) of the question.

*[English]*

**Indian System of Medicine**

34. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

*(a) whether the present Indian system of medicine and health care needs the revival;*

*(b) if so, the details thereof; and*

(c) the details of several illnesses to which allopathy could not cure or prevent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) and (b) The Government have already set up a separate Department of Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy in March, 1995 for development and promotion of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani & Homoeopathy system of medicine and drugless therapies of Yoga & Naturopathy in the country.

(c) According to Indian Council of Medical Research, there are no drugs available for majority of viral diseases. Further in certain diseases, such as hypertension, rheumatoid arthritis, bronchial asthma etc. complete cure is not available for some of the patients in allopathy system of medicine, but the treatment can arrest the symptom and further progress of the diseases.

**Honorarium to Part Time Midwives**

35. SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh had requested the Union government to increase the honorarium payable to part time midwives from Rs. 50/- to Rs. 300/- per month; and

(b) if so, when was the said request received by the Union Government and the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The last request is dated 28 July, 1997. There is no Centrally approved scheme for engaging part time midwives.

In the existing Sub-centre scheme there is a provision for engaging voluntary worker for maintenance of the Sub-centre on honorarium of Rs. 50/- per month. The U.P. Government has requested for increasing the remuneration of "short-time mid-wives" which are not being funded by Govt. of India.

*[Translation]*

**Pending Schemes of Maharashtra**

36. DR. SAHEBRAO SUKRAM BAGUL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

*(a) the details of various schemes of Government of Maharashtra lying pending with the Union Government for clearance;*

(b) the action taken by the Union Government thereon so far; and

(c) the time by which the decision on these schemes is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOOR) : (a) to (c) No scheme pertaining to the State of Maharashtra is pending at present with the Planning Commission for its clearance.

**Child Labour**

37. DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI :
SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Authority for abolition of Child Labour has identified the areas in Uttar Pradesh having highest number of cases of Child Labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Union government for abolition and rehabilitation of Child Labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]*

**Clearance to Power Projects**

38. SHRI P.C. THOMAS :
SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :
SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether several private and public sector power projects from Kerala are pending for clearance of the Central Electricity Authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with capacity and estimated cost of each project;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has sought fuel linkage for setting up of Barge Mounted Power Projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

*(e) the time by which the pending power projects are likely to be cleared?*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The Government of Kerala had sought fuel linkage for setting up of Barge Mounted Power Projects to the extent of 500 MW. over and above, their regular allocation. The request had not been accepted.

*[Translation]*

**Infectious Diseases**

39. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of infectious diseases and the number of patients suffering therefrom as on December 31, 1996, as compared to previous year in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether any special drive is being launched by the Government for prevention of infectious diseases and treatment of patients suffering therefrom;

(c) whether any research work is being undertaken for eradication of infectious diseases and for providing medicines of good quality to patients suffering from infectious diseases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the types of diseases for which research is being undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) No reliable information is available on the infectious diseases. The State-wise details on the basis of report received by the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence about the number of cases of communicable diseases during the year 1996 and 1995 is given in the Statement attached.

(b) to (d) There are several National Programmes for the control of communicable diseases which included AIDS, Malaria, TB, Leprosy, Gunieaworm, Vaccine preventable diseases, diarrhoea, etc. where provision for treatment of patients suffering from these diseases has been made including supply of drugs. At present there are only 3 diseases which are being targetted for eradicate/elimination viz. Leprosy, Polio and Guineworm. ICMR is conducting research in Polio and Leprosy through their own institutions and other research bodies.